

100% tariffs on films produced in UK - Bectu's response

By Email - 0200 7th May 2025



Dear Member,

The surprise announcement by President Trump to impose a 100% tariff on films made outside of the US came as a shock to everyone this weekend. It's still unclear what will happen next, and therefore at this stage this statement raises more questions than answers. However, we want to reassure members that we are in close contact with industry and Government ministers and are pressing them for action.

It's a testament to our lobbying and influence that senior ministers and industry figures were in touch with us almost as soon as the announcement hit the news cycle.

Hopefully you have seen the significant press coverage the union has received on this issue – including in the [Guardian](#), [BBC News](#), [Sky News](#), the [Independent](#), ITV, Channel 4 and more. [You can also watch a clip from BBC News here.](#)

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Philippa Childs, head of Bectu, said the tariffs “could deal a knockout blow to an industry that is only just recovering and will be really worrying news for tens of thousands of skilled freelancers who make films in the UK.”

The situation is developing very quickly, and the Trump administration is already feeling the backlash. As a result he clarified that he would ask Hollywood studios if “they’re happy” with his proposal to impose tariffs of 100% on films made outside of the United States.

“I’m not looking to hurt the industry, I want to help the industry,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

Media stocks, including Netflix shares, dropped after the news was announced and in a short space of time events have already moved quickly. This is a big indicator that the crude proposal wouldn’t work because of the global nature of the industry. Inevitably, making it more costly to make films in the UK, and elsewhere, would also damage the US film business.

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We understand the news will be distressing for many of you. Your union will keep the pressure on industry bodies and government, so we get the right conclusion, and we will keep you updated as the situation develops.

Philippa Childs

Head of Bectu

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Tel: 0300 600 1878 (option 2)



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100 Rochester Row

London

SW1P 1JP

bectu.org.uk/join

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